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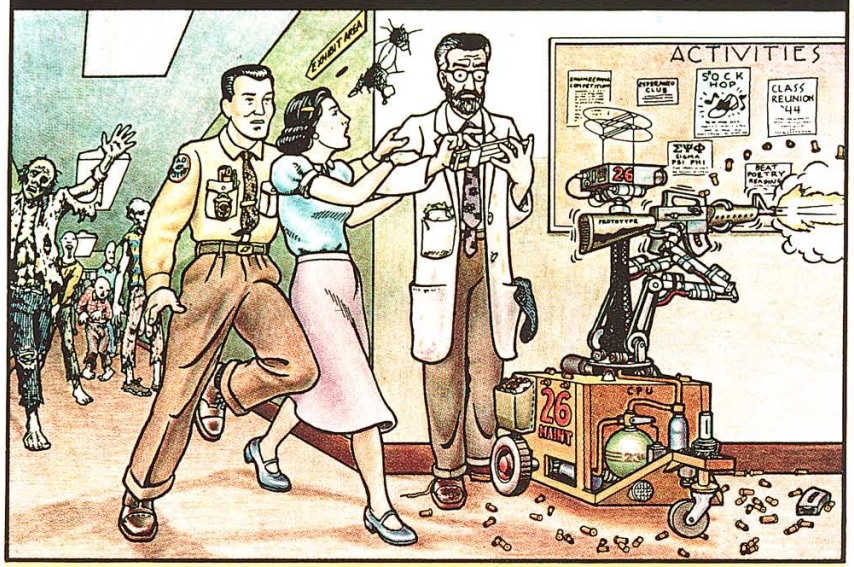

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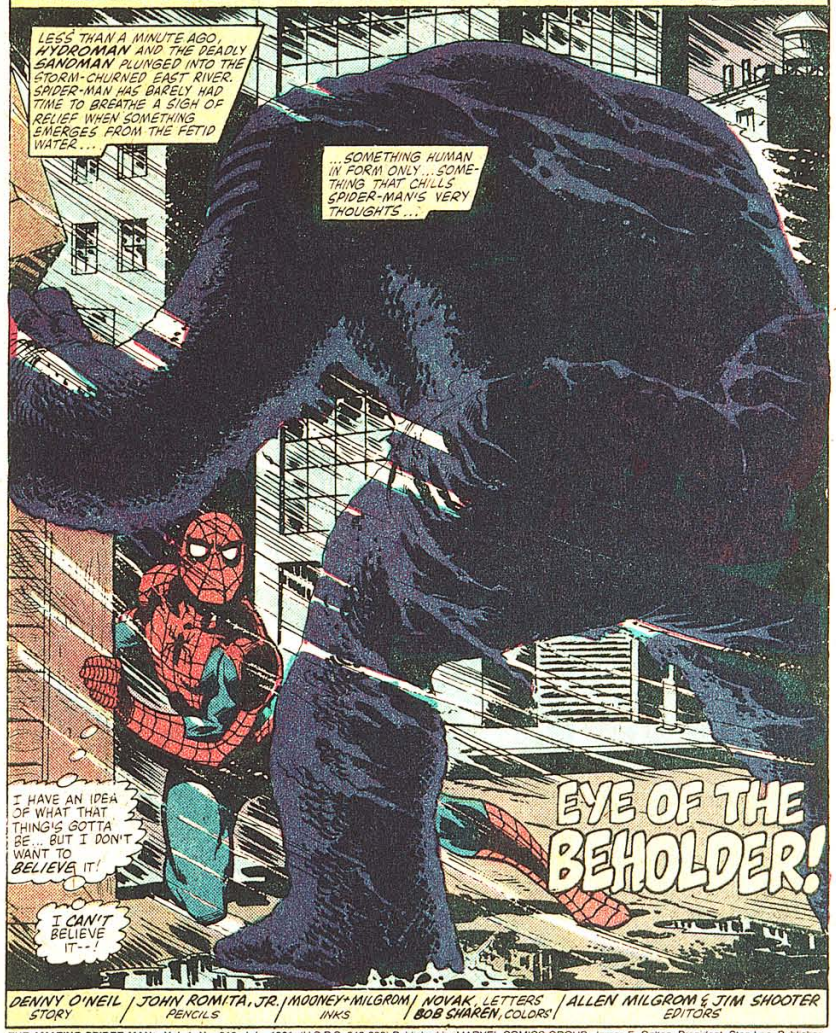

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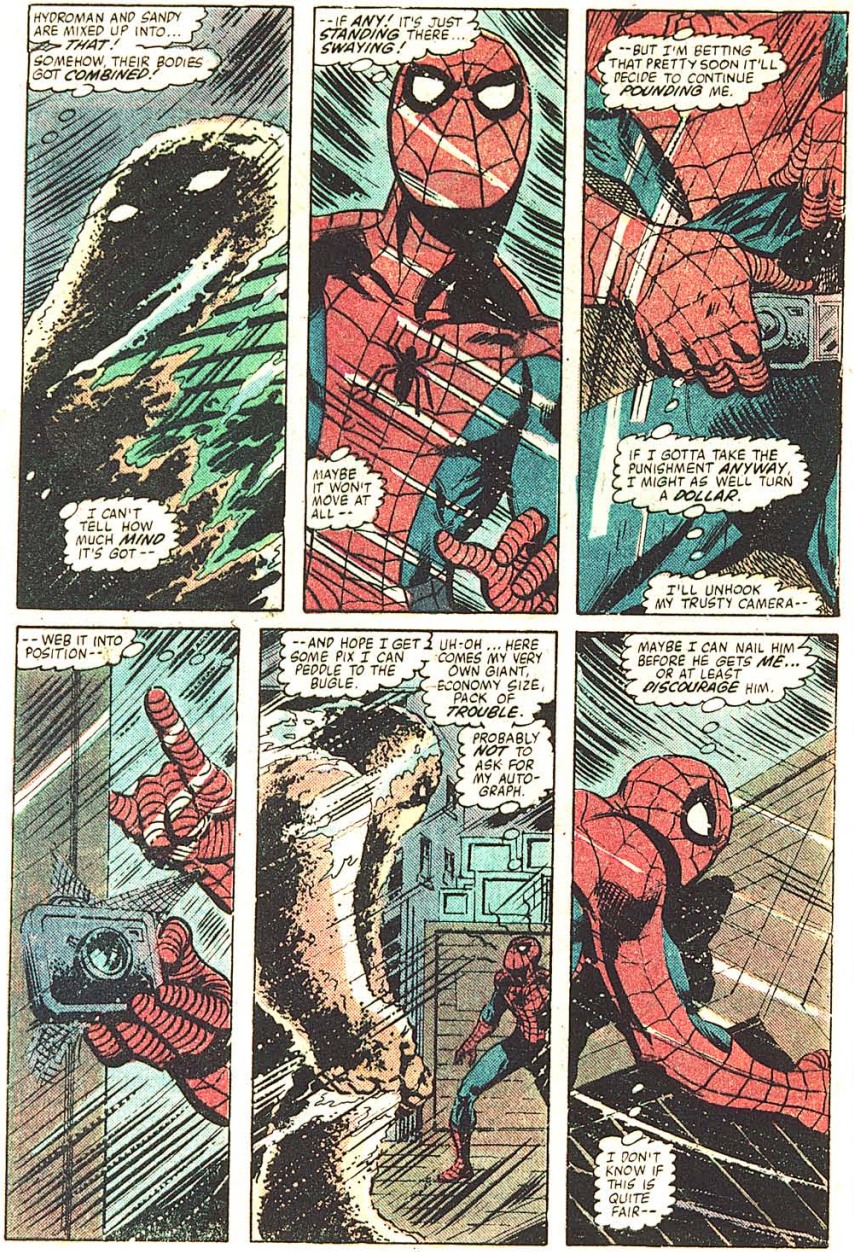

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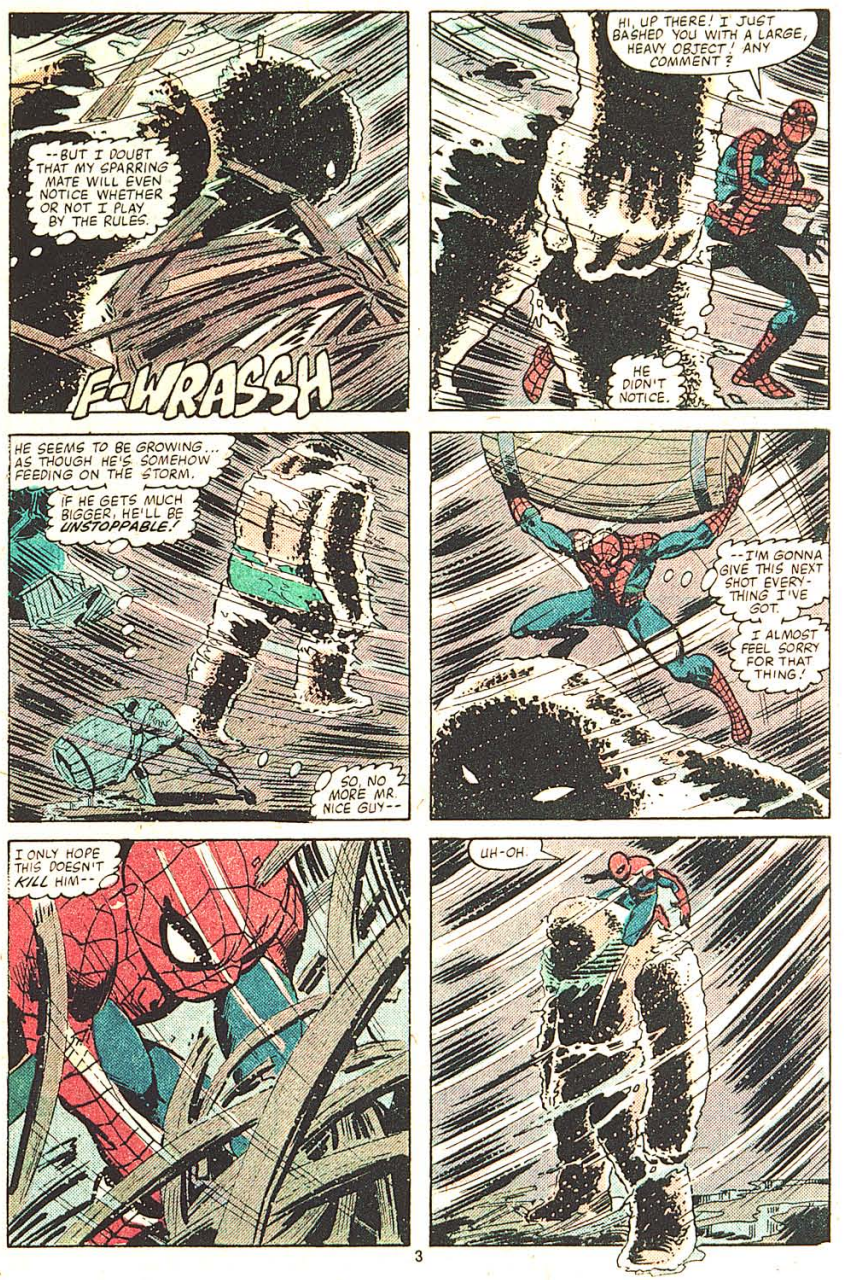

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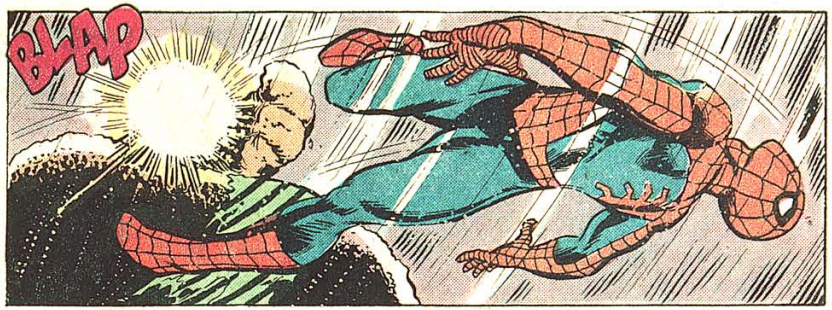

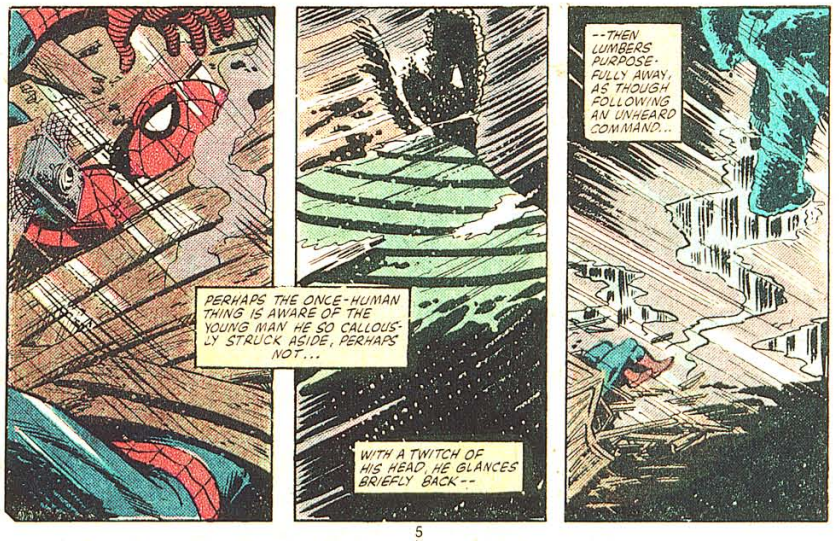

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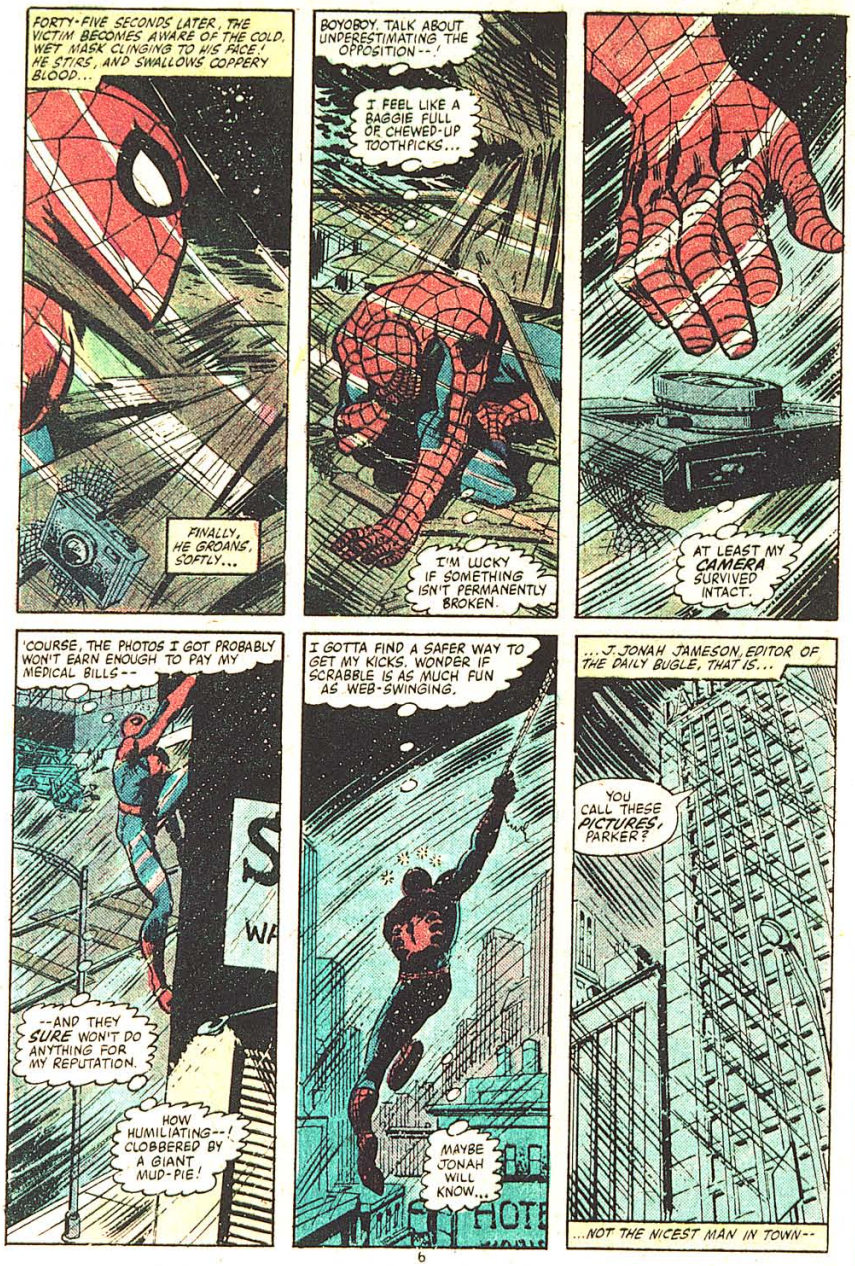

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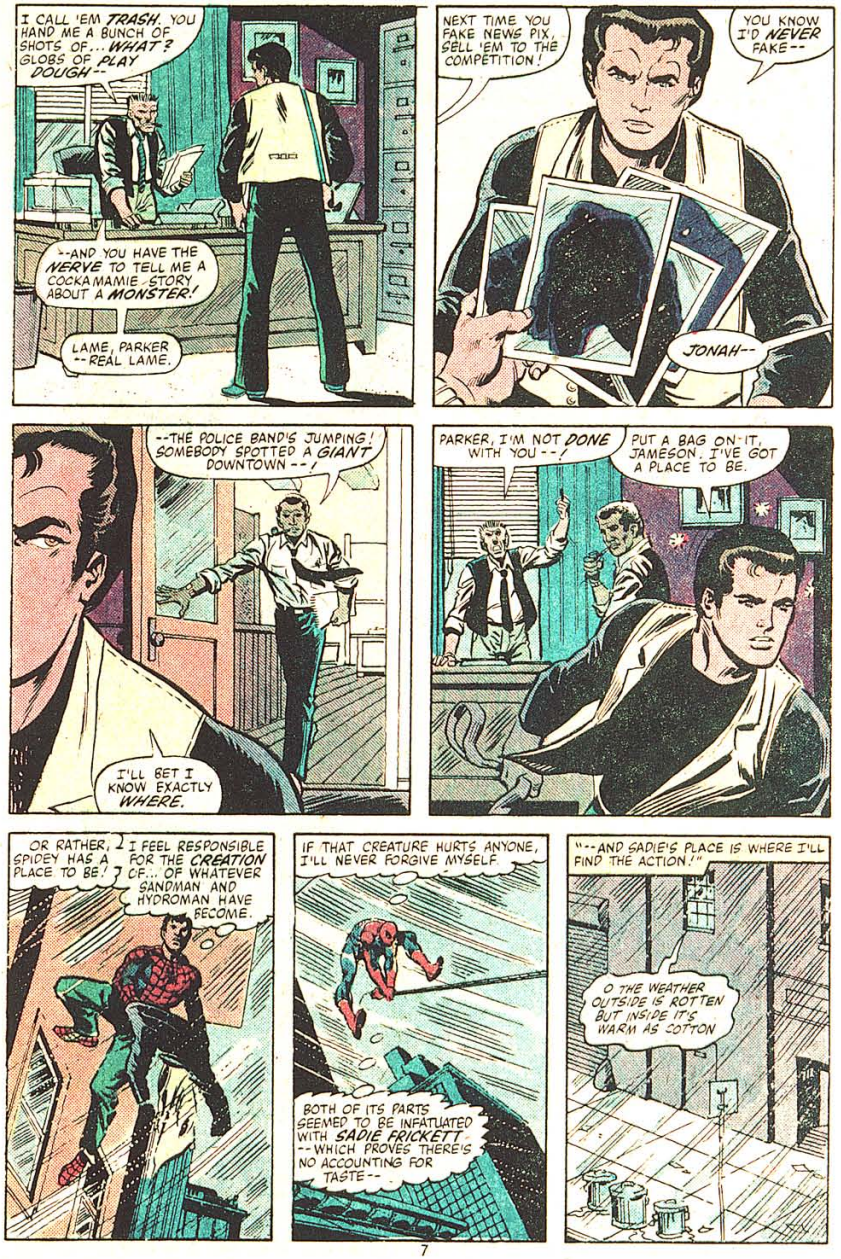

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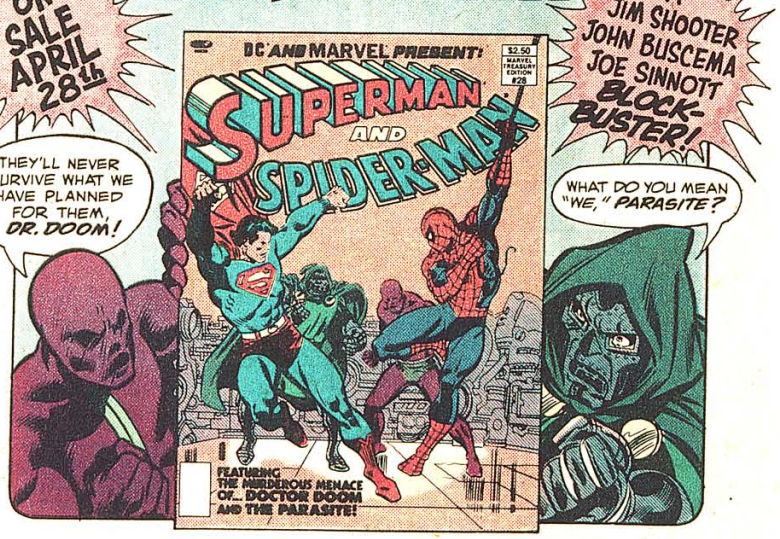

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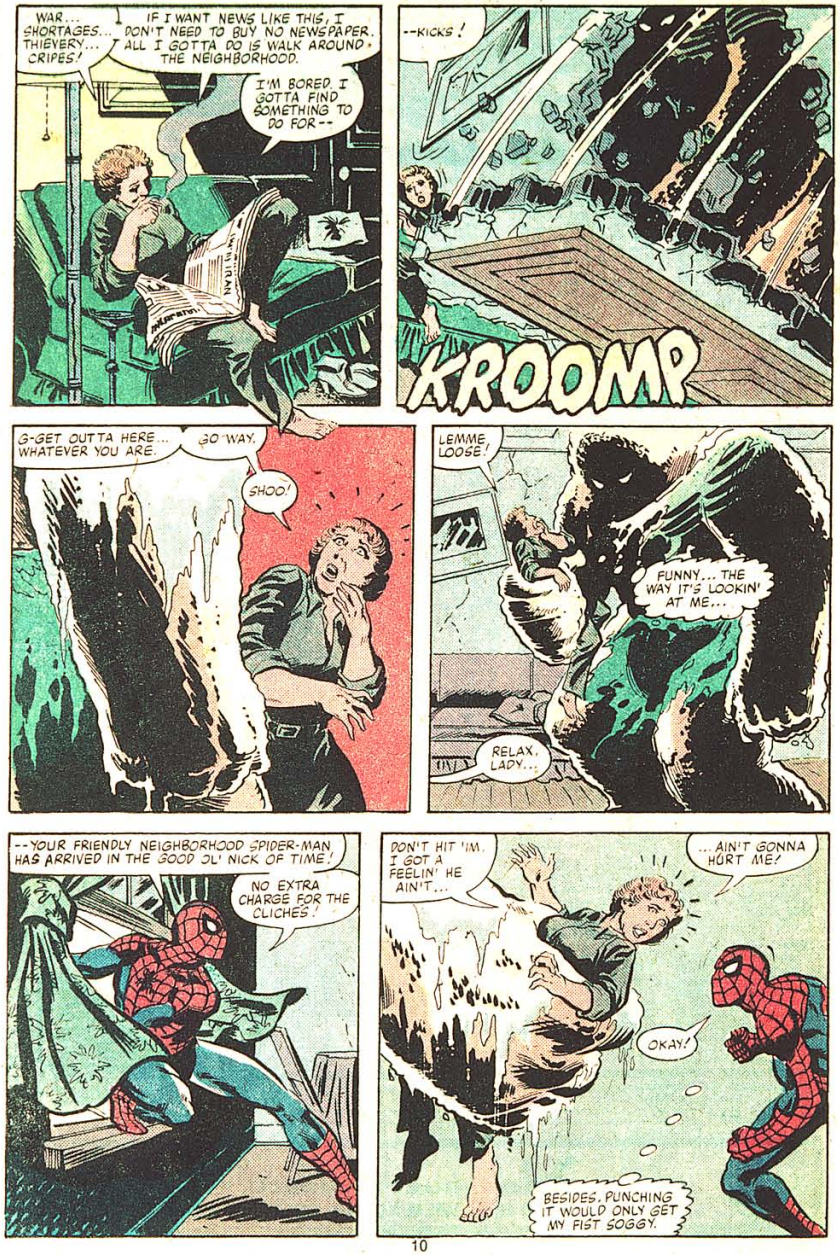

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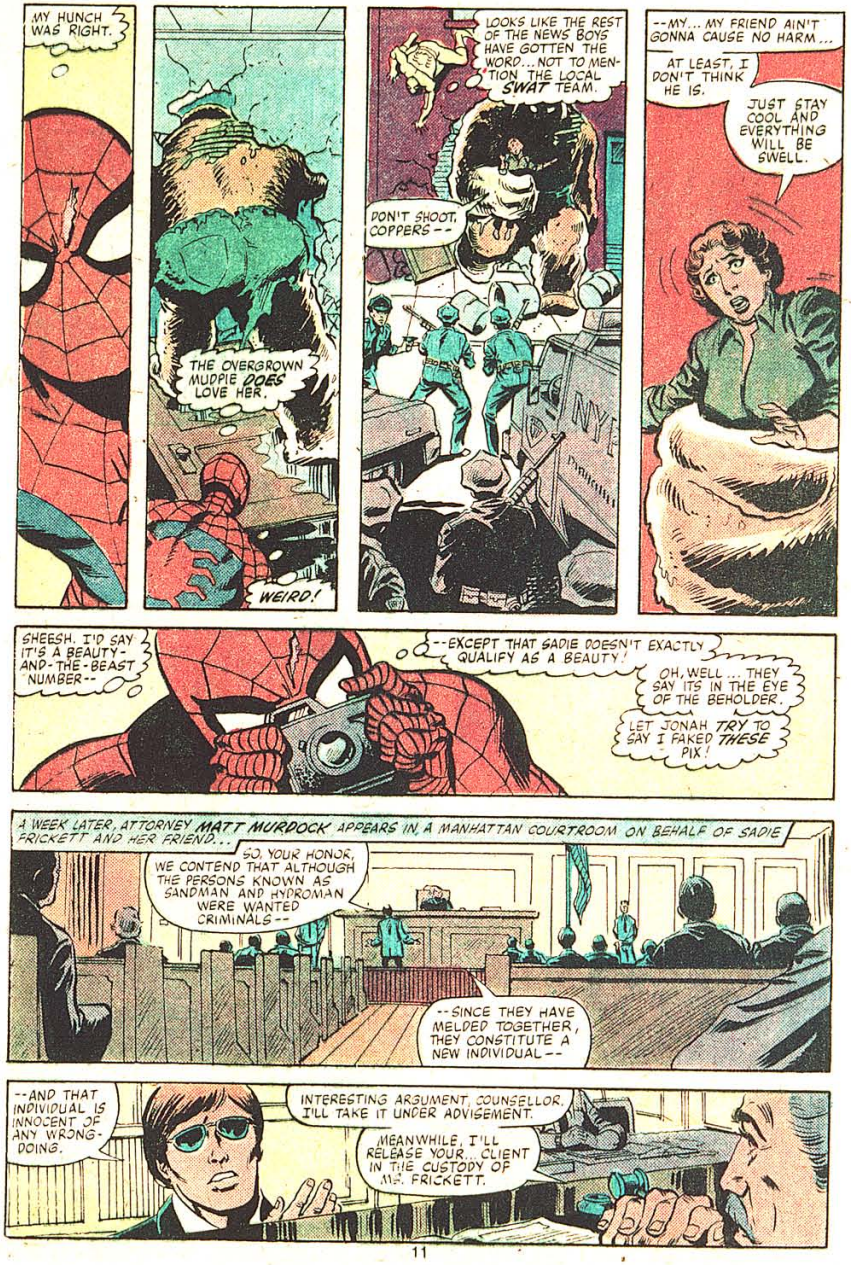

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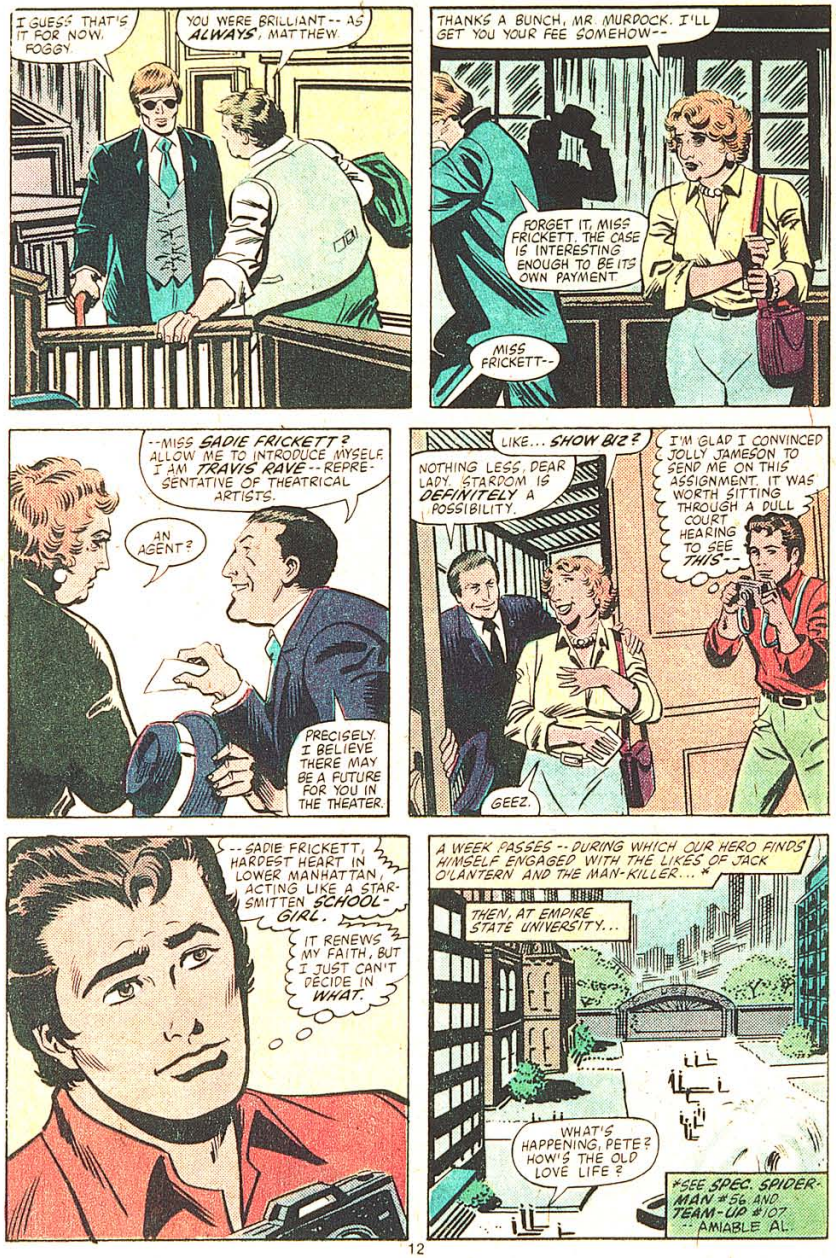

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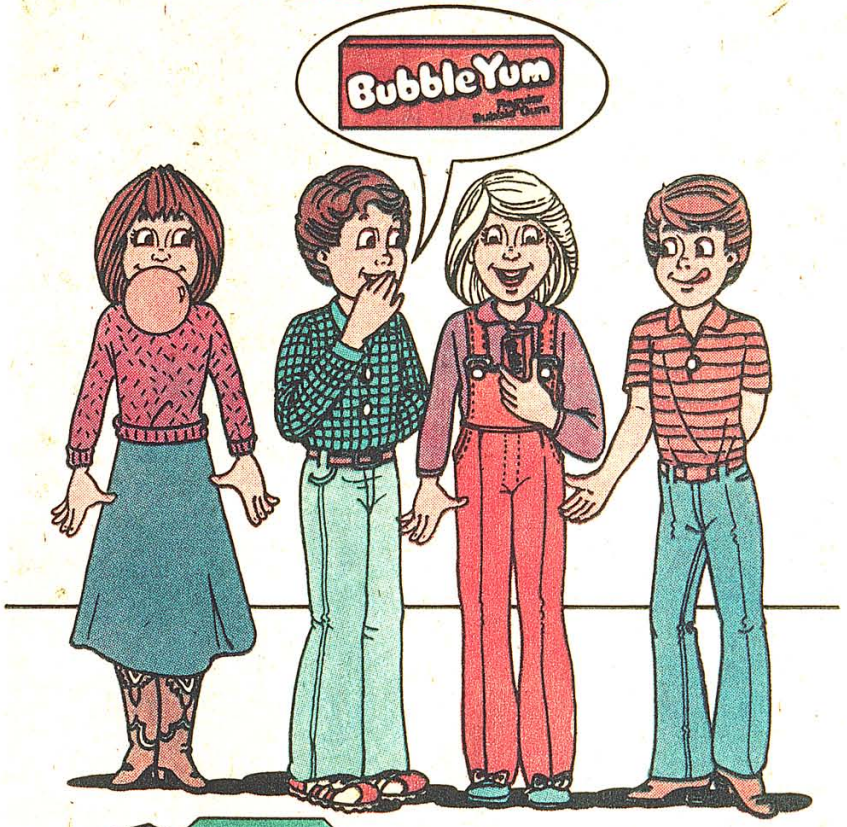

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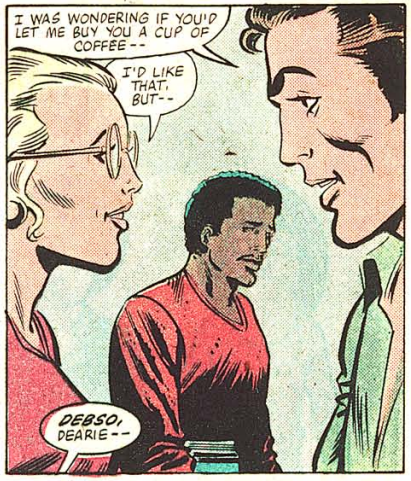

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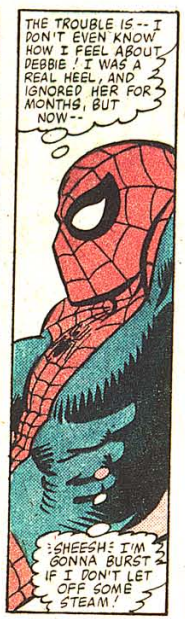

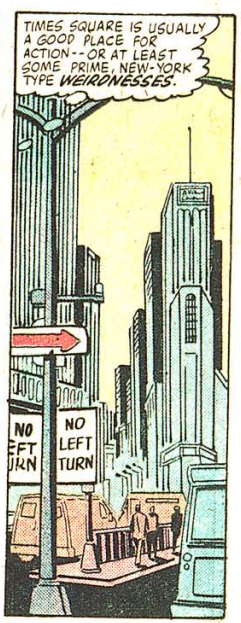

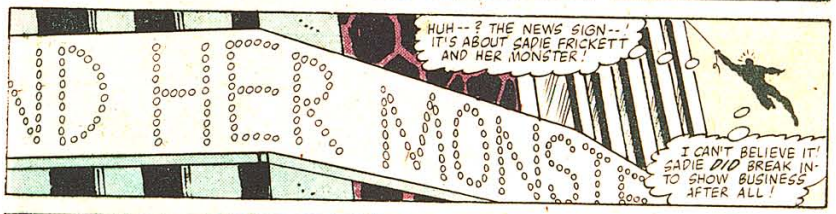

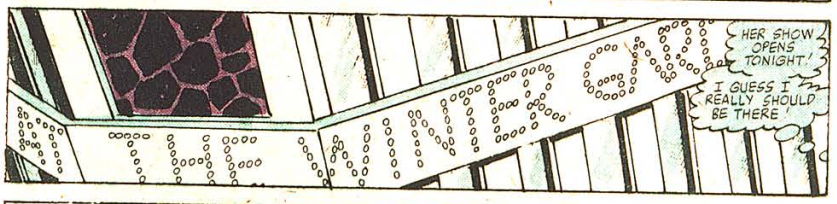

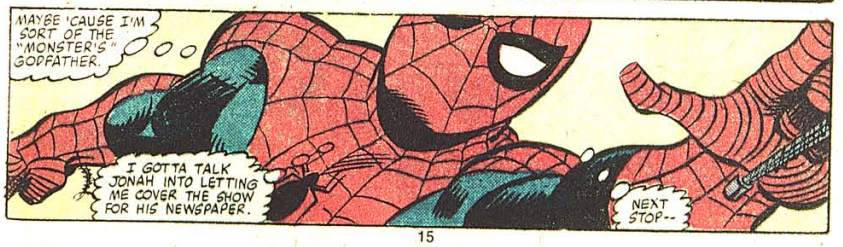

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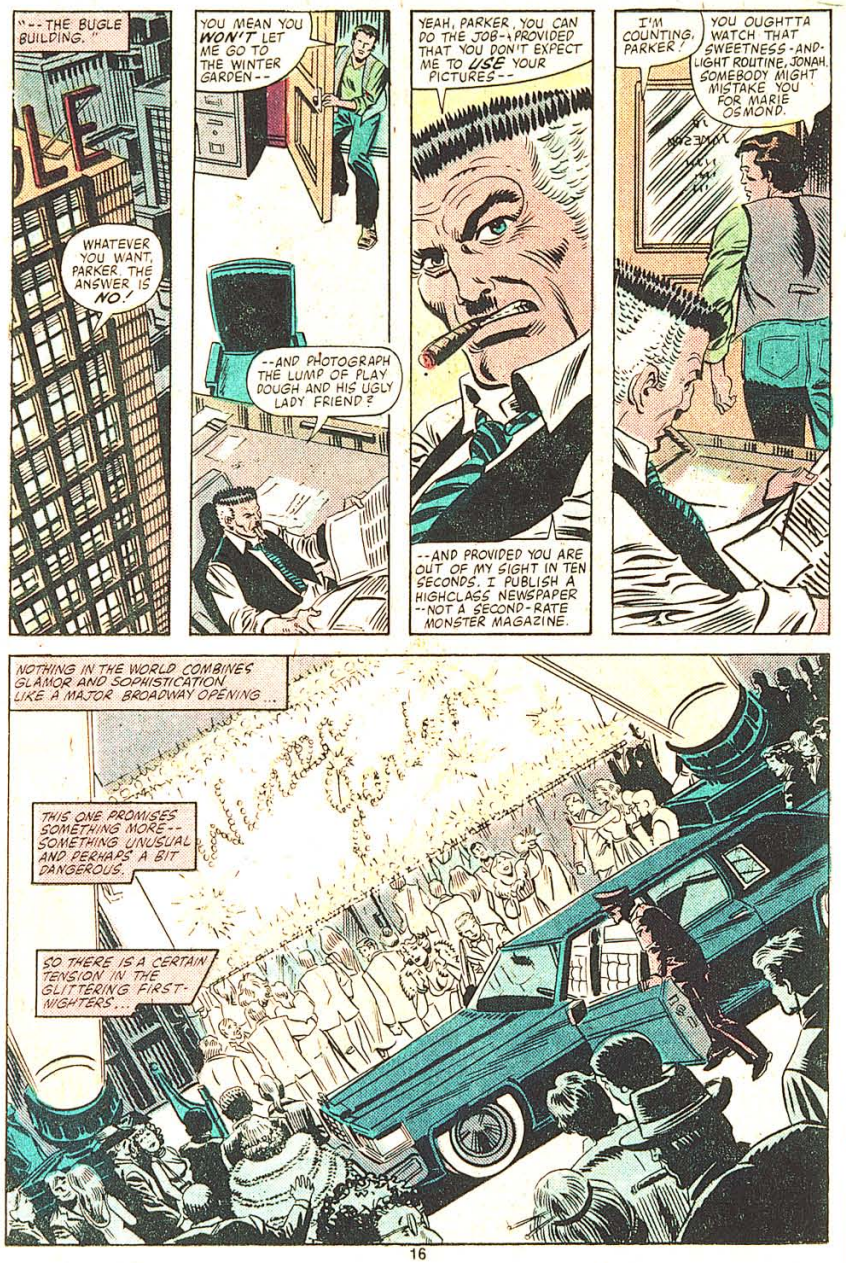

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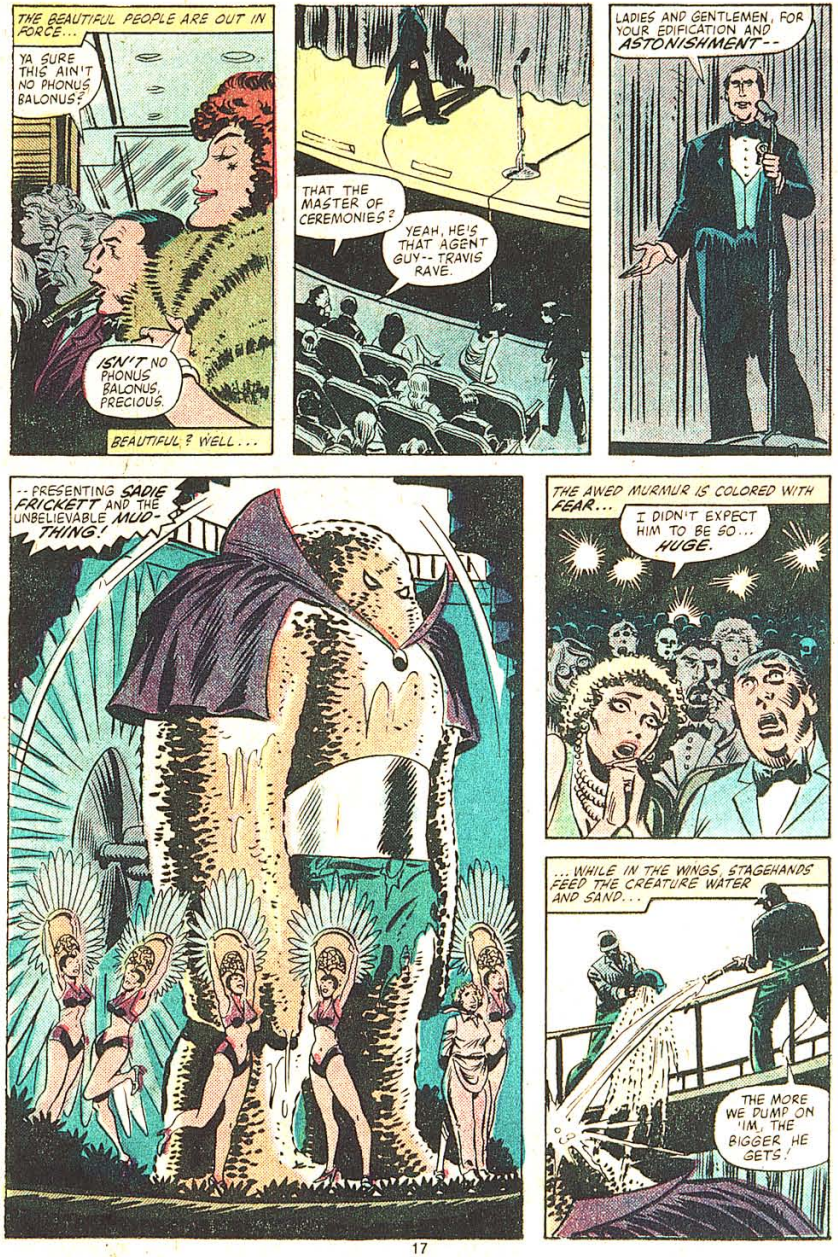

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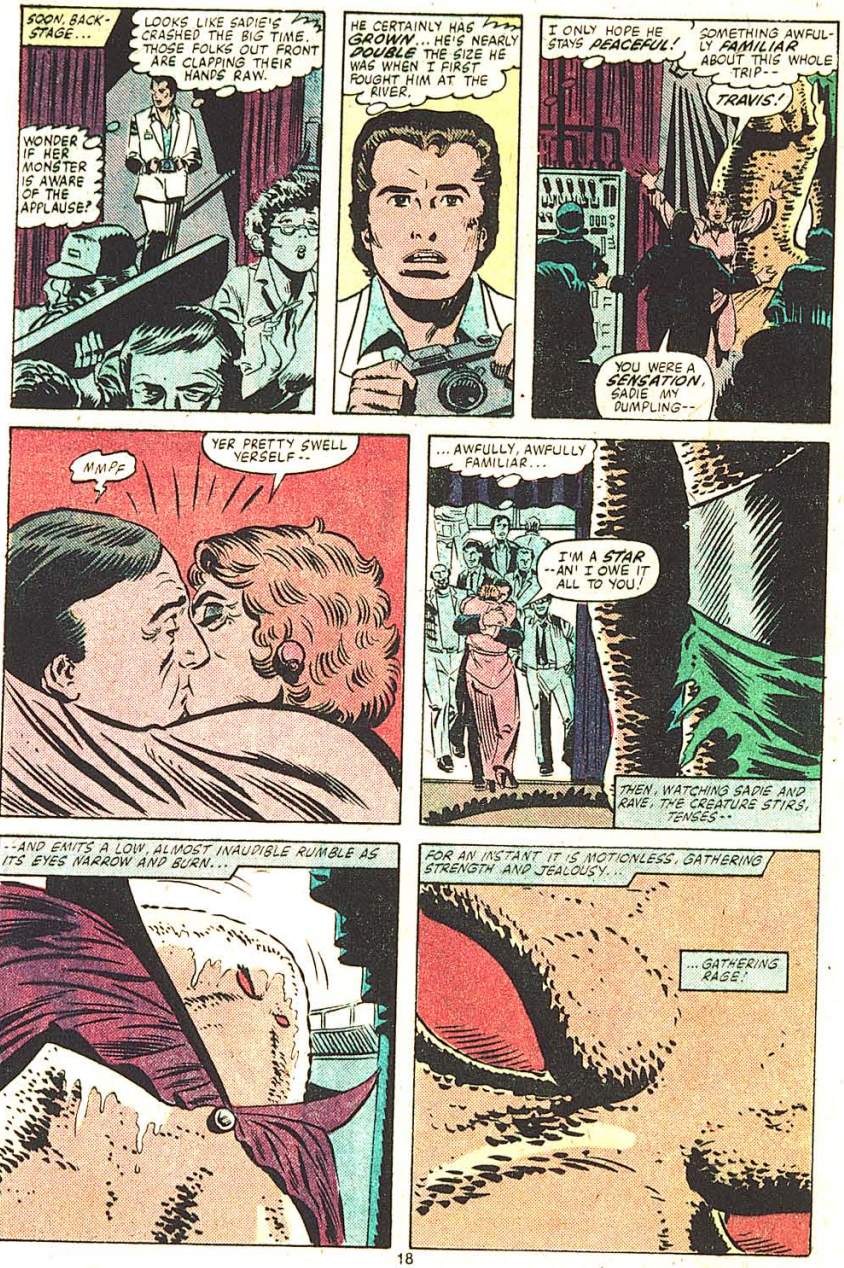

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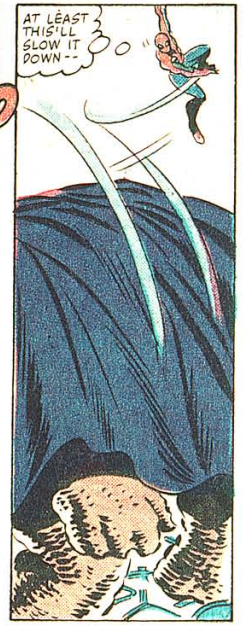

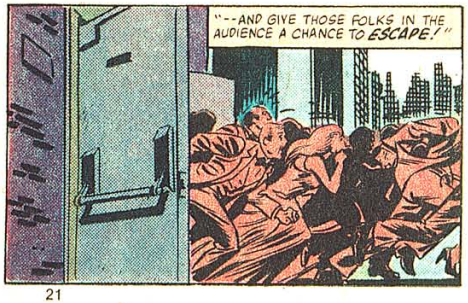

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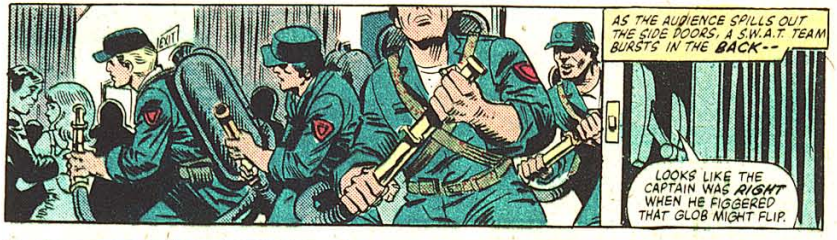

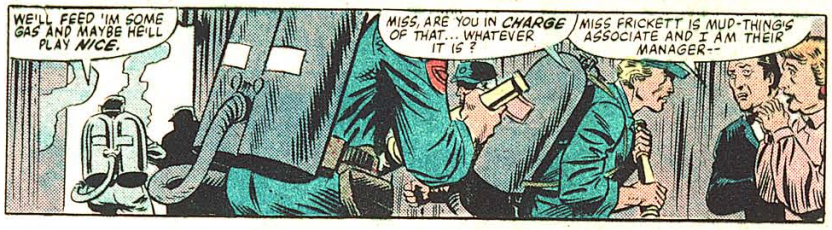

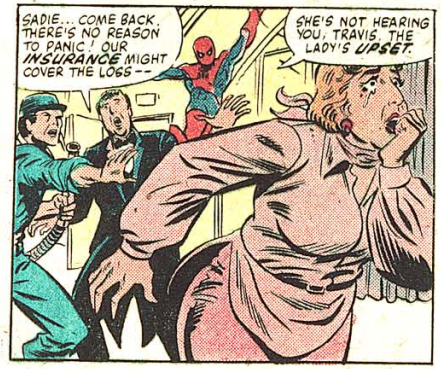

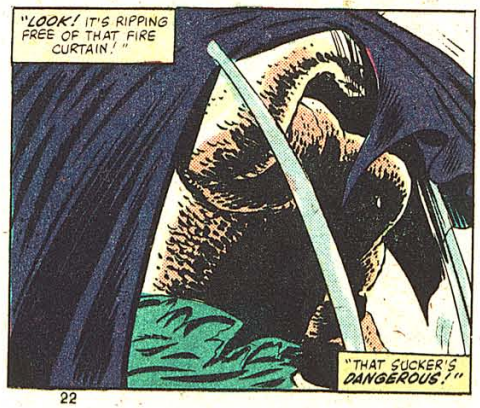

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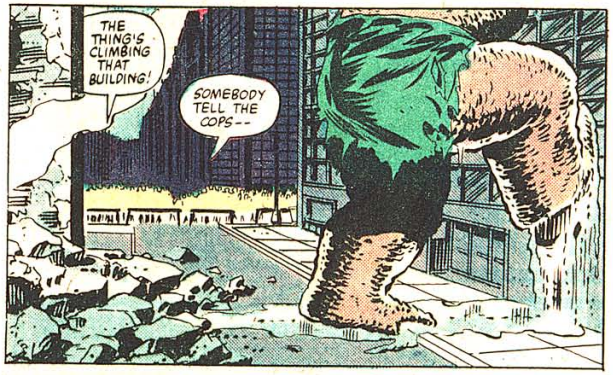

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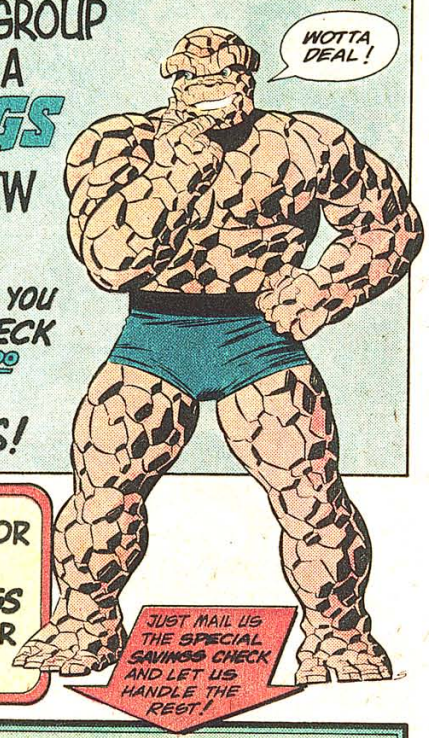

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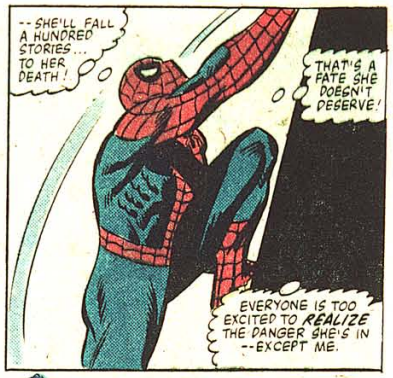

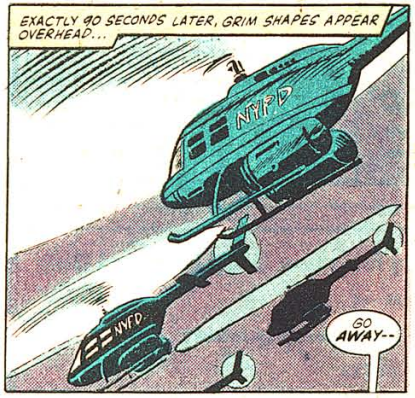

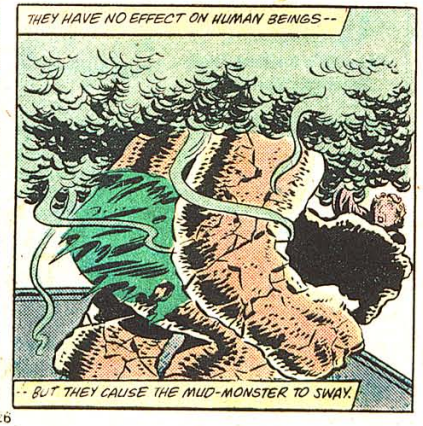

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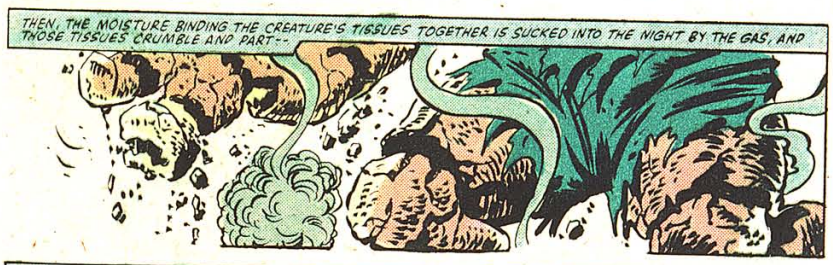

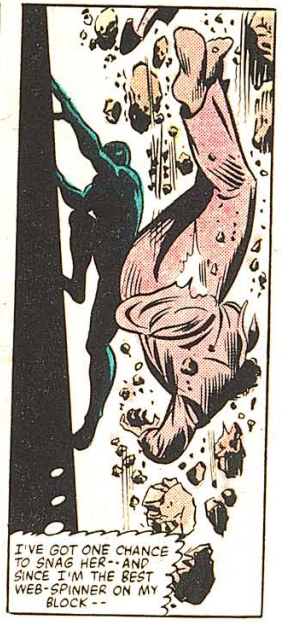

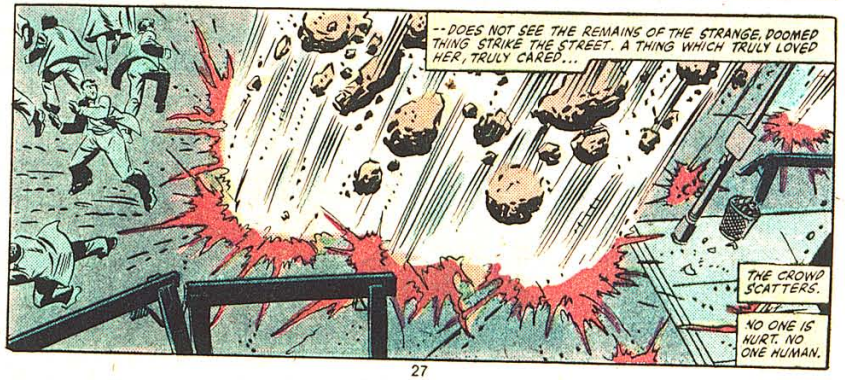

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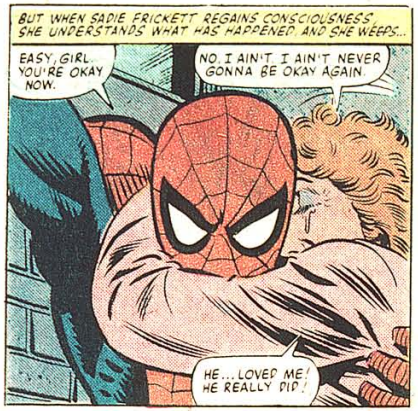

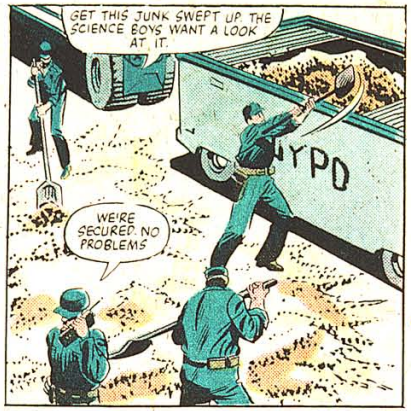

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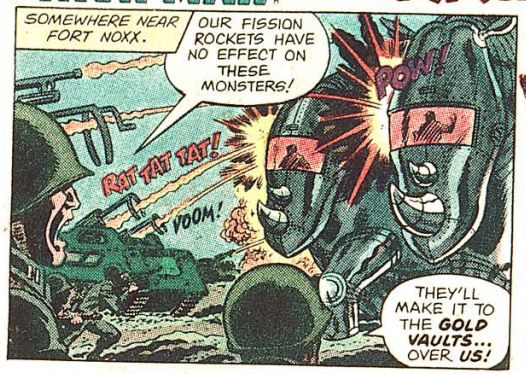

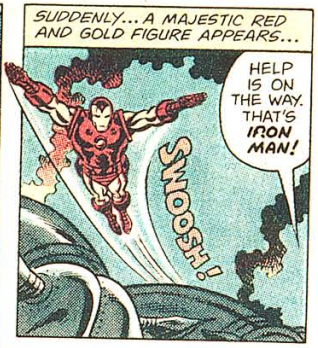

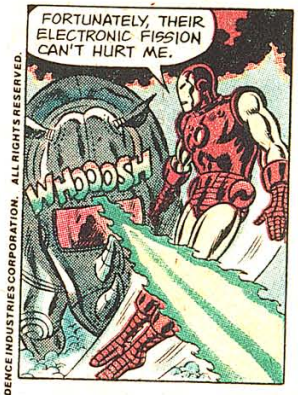

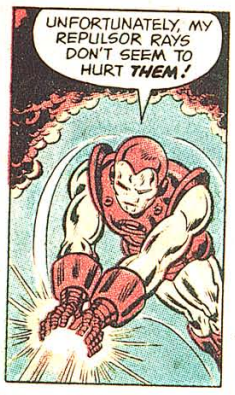

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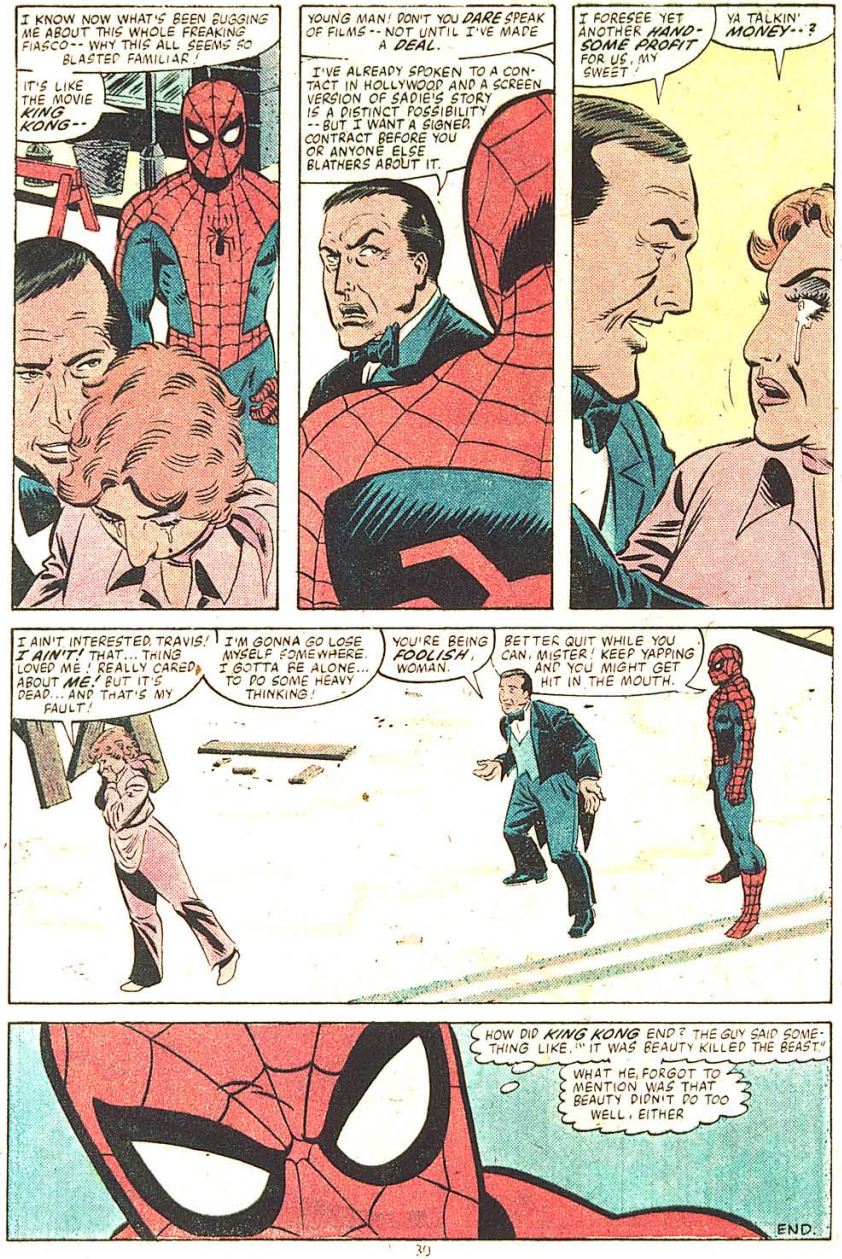

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YOU ASKED FOR IT — YOU GOT IT!

We received an avalanche of mail cursing us, threatening us, pleading with us, and generally demanding that the Bullpen Bulletin Page be reinstated. All right, already!

Along with the outraged demands, we received explicit instructions about just what you folks out there want to see and read on this page. Almost everyone said (and in no uncertain terms) that they wanted a minimum of hype and a maximum dose of news about their favorite titles and the stars who create them — the inside scoop, straight from the top.

TELL YA WHAT I'M GONNA DO....

The "top" these days, as always, is Stan Lee, Publisher Without Peer. Like everybody else, I'd love it if Stan could write this page. He can't. He just doesn't have time. Why not? Well, running our new Movie-TV operation, ***Marvel Productions,*** pretty much eats up the time left over from being Publisher of the Marvel line. What does he do, exactly? Well, he's the Creative Director for one thing, guiding and supervising all of the creative efforts of the entire company. Stan himself will explain some of the other high-level show-biz publishing executive-type stuff that keeps him hopping in Soapbox Specials which will appear on this page from time to time in the future — whenever he's got some big news to announce and he can spare ten minutes to write!

We'll also present on this page occasion announcements, gossip, news, and nonsense from Al Milgrom, Denny O'Neil, Jim "Salicrup, and Louise Jones, pertaining to the particular comics and magazines they edit. You'll also hear from Larry Hama about CRAZY! doings... and once in a while Archie Goodwin, Editorial Director of EPIC ILLUSTRATED, will enlighten us all about the latest goings on in his domain (down the hall and to the left — the office with the spaceships parked outside. You can't miss it). In between all those special things, I'll be giving you the general lowdown on things Marvel-ous, I'm not Stan Lee, but as Editor-in-Chief, I am right here in the middle of things, and I can fill you in on most of the important current events. And I will.

HOW...?

About like this. Straight talk, off the cuff, and without a lot of extraneous foofahrah. I plan to concentrate on writing about what you want to know — the behind-the-scenes stuff. I warn you, there's bound to be *some* of the old hard sell on this page for two reasons: A) we're pretty proud of our works here, and B) we've *got* to sell a bunch of comics and magazines every month, right? I'll do my best to confine the hype to new titles and really special issues. I'll even put it all in a special little section of its own, so that if you don't want to read it, you can skip over it. Fair enough?

SO, OKAY, WHAT'S NEW...?

Since we haven't had a Bullpen Page for eons, a lot of my "news" is already old — but just to make it official...

WELCOME...!

...to Denny O'Neil, pipe-smoking, highly-acclaimed writer and editor who joined our staff more than a year ago. His skill at plotting, writing, and teaching same is awesome. Ask DAREDEVIL writer (and penciler) Frank Miller who, with only a few scripts to his credit is being compared to the likes of Chris Claremont. Most likely Frank will admit that Denny is a genius who helped him tremendously, and then say, "too bad he's older than Yoda." Being (gasp) 40, Denny gets kidded a lot by the spring-chicken type Bullpenners (Frank's twenty-four), but he doesn't care. Whenever he gets depressed, a relaxing ten-or-twelve mile run along the West Side Highway perks up his spirits... and stifles the kidders, most of whom couldn't even walk that far. Next month, I'll tell you why a lot of folks around Marvel refer to Denny as "He!"

ANOTHER WELCOME...!

...to Louise Jones, whose sweet, soft-spoken, gentle manner is legend in the trade...along with her strong will, crisp professionalism, and dazzling creativity. She has an uncanny knack for gathering together outstanding creative people and bringing out their absolute best. (Been reading the X-MEN lately?) Louise came to Marvel from Warren Magazines, where she was Senior Editor, and immediately proved that her reputation as an innovator and creator was more than justified. Her terrific talents wed perfectly with Marvel's nothing-but-the-best approach to graphic storytelling. And speaking of weddings, several months ago, lovely Louise married Walt Simonson! Wait, in case you've been in Tierra del Fuego, is an artist whose achievements would take pages to list, and since this paragraph's about Louise, I won't. Besides, I'm sure most of you are familiar with Walt's work, but Louise has done most of her work behind the scenes as an editor, leaving the limelight to others — and so only insiders know that she's considered a powerful, creative force in the industry. Now you know it too.

ANOTHER ONE...!

...to Larry Hama — artist, writer, actor, musician, editor, and expert on just about everything. Larry is a martial arts expert, a foreign culture expert, a firearms and explosive ordnance expert, and... isn't this getting dull? So he knows everything and does everything well. Big Deal. If he's so smart, what's he doing editing a rag like CRAZY!? (For the answer, see the Hype Box!)

MORE WEDDINGS...

Congratulations to Jim Starlin and Daina Graziunas who were married in October... also to John Byrne and Andrea Braun who were wed in November! John met his lovely lady at the Chicago Con last summer, and maybe if you're good, I'll tell you in an up coming Bulletin how, if it weren't for me, John and "Andy" (as she likes to be called) might have passed like ships in the night! Maybe I'll even get John to tell the story.

SPEAKING OF JOHN...

Lots of folks were puzzled when they heard that John had left the X-MEN. Why? Well, after years of drawing X-folks, John was plain tired of multiple mutants. And, frankly, having developed his story-telling skills to awesome heights, John felt the need to have more creative control over the characters he was working on — meaning that he wanted to *write* as well as draw a series. All that added up to moving over to the FANTASTIC FOUR... Chris Claremont, X-MEN writer for six glorious years now, will be joined by Dave Cockrum, who started the new X-Men on the road to success way back when, and Joe Rubinstein, who's an outstanding inker. Looks like everything worked out fine.

I CALL 'EM RUG-RATS...

Bill and Karen Mantlo became proud parents of a new little Micronaut, *Carina*... Bob and Fran Larkin recently added baby *Claire* to the brood... and, way down yonder in Texas, Kerry and Sue Gammill presented *Jeffrey Matthew* to the world. If this keeps up, folks may start calling this place the Mighty Marvel *Playpen!*

FUN! FUN! FUN!

Recently I was invited to a gathering of the Pittsburgh Comix Club in my hometown, Pittsburgh, Pa., and if you think this is a preiude to a plug, you're right. They're a great bunch of people, hundreds strong, and they have more outrageous projects going than you an shake a DAZZLER No. 1 at. They have a great time... and you can get in on it, even if you don't live in the Steel City. For info, write to Fearless President...

Ben Pondexter
827 Anaheim St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

R-E-S-P-E-C-T

While in the old hometown, I paid a call at the University of Pittsburgh's Hillman Library, where I met Charles Aston Jr., Coordinator of Special Collections. Aided and abetted by The Pittsburgh Comix Club (them again!), he is adding a comprehensive collection of comics to the Hillman's Library of Popular Culture. Part of the collection has already been organized and is available for scholarly study. And soon, the library will include the collection in its computerized listings, thereby making it accessible to students across the land. (And, no, you can't check out an F.F. No. 1 for two weeks.) By the way, the collection is being built largely on the strength of donations. If you think you might be interested in contributing to this collection, which Mr. Aston assures us is of enormous historical importance, get in touch with Ben Pondexter at the address above. Do *not* send comics or anything else unbidden. Inquire first, okay?

AND NOW...

...that's about it for this month. I advise you to check out the Hype Box, below. The stuff mentioned therein wouldn't be if we didn't think it was terrific.

Thanks,

Jim Shooter

THE HYPE BOX

If you haven't picked up a copy of CRAZY in a while, you're in for a big surprise. We sincerely believe that Crazy has become, in the one short year since *Larry Hama* took over the editorial reins, the funniest humor-mag around! This month, Crazy #75's got "The Telltale Cat In The Hat Comes Back," "Space War Wizards," and more stuff you're really gonna laugh over. Give it a shot.

And don't miss the all-weird last issue of MAN-THING (#11), also on sale now. It features, among other things, the death of *Chris Claremont!!* Pencils by Val Mayerik.

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST!

- ☐ MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #77-- Starring the **Thing, Man-Thing,** and **Sgt. Fury and his Howling Commandos!**
- ☐ SPIDER-WOMAN #40
- ☐ STAR TREK #16
- ☐ DAREDEVIL #172
- ☐ MARVEL SUPER HEROES #99-- Featuring the **Hulk!**
- ☐ DAZZLER #5
- ☐ KA-ZAR #4
- ☐ SPIDEY SUPER STORIES #53
- ☐ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #218
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #259
- ☐ THOR #309
- ☐ MICRONAUTS #31
- ☐ GHOST RIDER #58
- ☐ SAVAGE SHE-HULK #18
- ☐ MOON KNIGHT #9
- ☐ INCREDIBLE HULK #261
- ☐ AVENGERS #209
- ☐ CONAN #124
- ☐ MARVEL TALES #129-- starring **Spider-Man!**
- ☐ X-MEN #147
- ☐ ROM #20
- ☐ POWER MAN/IRON FIST #71
- ☐ MAN-THING #11
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #232
- ☐ MARVEL TEAM-UP #107-- **Spidey** and **She-Hulk!**
- ☐ IRON MAN #148
- ☐ PETER PARKER #56
- ☐ DEFENDERS #97
- ☐ MARVEL SUPER ACTION #33-- Starring the **Avengers!**
- ☐ STAR WARS #49
- ☐ MASTER OF KUNG FU #102

MARVEL MAGAZINES

- ☐ SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #65
- ☐ CRAZY #75
- ☐ HULK #27
- ☐ EPIC #6-- Cover painting by **Neal Adams!**
- ☐ BIZARRE ADVENTURES #26-- Featuring **King Kull** with eye-popping art by Britain's *John Bolton.*

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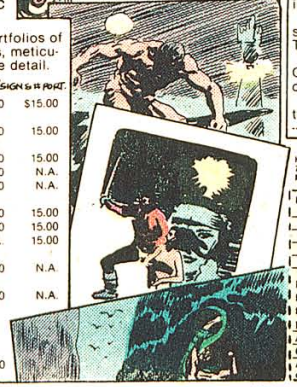

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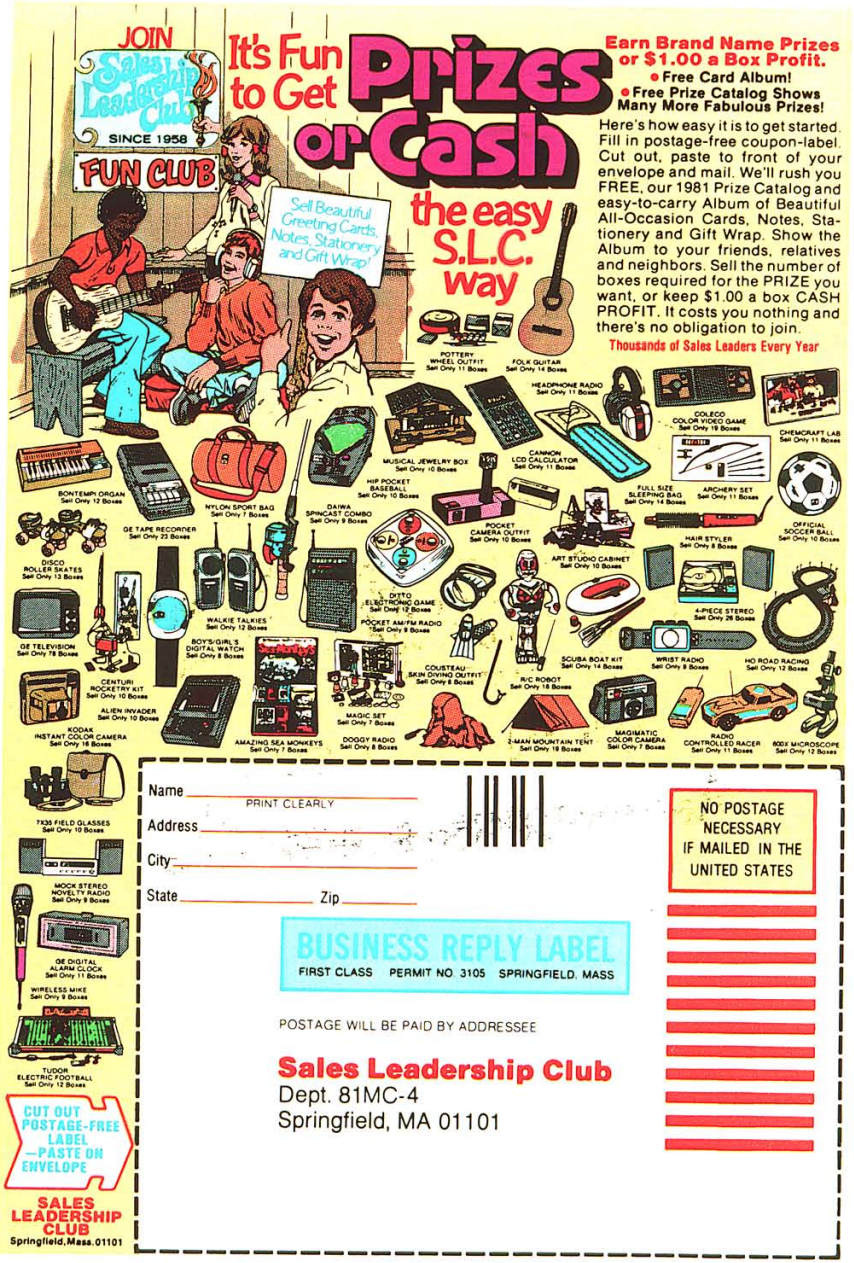

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